

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A valve prosthesis [(9), preferably a cardiac valve prosthesis,] for implantation in the body and comprising a collapsible elastical valve [(6)] which is mounted on an elastical stent [(1)] wherein [the] commissural points [(5)] of the elastical collapsible valve [(6)] are mounted on [the] a cylinder surface of the elastical stent [(1) characterized in that] wherein the stent is made from a radially collapsible and re-expandable cylindrical support means [(7, 8, 24)] for folding and expanding together with the collapsible valve for implantation in the body by means of a technique of catheterization.

2. (Amended) [A] The valve prosthesis according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the support means [(7, 8)] is made of thread structure [(2, 3)].

3. (Amended) [A] The valve prosthesis according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the thread structure [(2, 3)] comprises several spaced apices projecting from the one side of the cylindrical structure and in direction along the longitudinal axis of the cylinder and that the commissural points [(5)] of the valve [(6)] are attached to the projecting apices.

4. (Amended) [A] The valve prosthesis according to claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the elastically collapsible valve [(6)] is a biologically trilobate valve.

5. (Amended) [A] The valve prosthesis according to claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the stent [(1)] is made from a stainless steel wire [(2, 3)] folded in number of loops [(4) and], bended according to a circle, and welded to form a closed ring [(7, 8)], that the stent comprises two or more such closed rings which are mutually connected end to end to form the cylindrical thread structure [(2, 3)], that three of the loops [(4)] in the external ring are folded with a greater height than the remaining loops to form the apices to which the commissural points of the biological valve are attached.

6. (Amended) [A] The valve prosthesis according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein each of the rings [(7, 8)] of the stent [(1)] is made from a wire having a diameter of 0.05 mm and a loop height of approximately 8 mm and approximately 14 mm for the three greater height loops, and that the cylindrical thread structure produced and the collapsible valve mounted thereon in a folded state have an outer diameter of approximately 10 mm and in expanded state an outer diameter of approximately 30 mm.

7. (Amended) [A] The valve prosthesis according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein three or more mutually attached rings [(7, 8)] placed on top of each other are used in that the stent [(1)] is made to be fixed through the expansion at one point in the channel where the valve prosthesis is inserted, which point is different from the point where the valve is mounted in the stent.

8. (Amended) [A] The valve prosthesis according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the cylinder surface of the support means is closed to form a tubular element [(24)].

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The Abstract has been amended as follows:

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A valve prosthesis [(9)] for implantation in the body by use of a catheter [(11) comprises] includes a stent made from an expandable cylinder-shaped thread structure [(2, 3) comprising] including several spaced apices [(4)]. The elastically collapsible valve [(4)] is mounted on the stent as the commissural points [(5)] of the valve [(6) is] are secured to the projecting apices [(4)]. The valve prosthesis [(9)] can be compressed around the balloon means [(13)] of the balloon catheter [(11)] and be inserted in a channel, for instance in the aorta [(10)]. When the valve prosthesis is placed correctly the balloon means [(13)] is inflated thereby expanding the stent and wedging it against the wall of the aorta. The balloon means is provided with beads [(14)] to ensure a steady fastening of the valve prosthesis on the balloon means during insertion and expansion. The valve prosthesis [(9)] and the balloon catheter [(11)] make it possible to insert a cardiac valve prosthesis without a surgical operation comprising opening the thoracic cavity.

[(Figs. 2 and 3 are considered suitable to the published with the abstract)]